

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: Chair and Members of the Liverpool City Region
Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel

Meeting: 20 April 2016

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY

DECISIONS OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY (CA)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to draw Panel members' attention to the significant decisions the CA has made since the Panel last met.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Panel considers the decisions made by the CA since the Panel's last meeting and, where appropriate:
- (1) comments on them;
 - (2) seeks further information on specific decisions; and/ or
 - (3) take a view on the approach being adopted by the CA in specific instances.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to draw Panel members' attention to the significant decisions made by the Combined Authority (CA) since the Panel last met. The Panel agreed at its last meeting that a report such as this will be brought to each meeting. This will allow Panel members:

- to scrutinise those decisions and hold the CA to account;
- to use that information to develop further work programme topics;
- to follow progress on the major issues dealt with across the City Region;
- provide feedback to the CA as the Panel sees fit.

- 3.2 Full details of each issue can be followed at the link to the website below, if members wish to find out more. This report covers the following CA meetings:

- 5 February 2016

- 18 March 2016
- 15 April 2016 (the Agenda for 15 April 2016 meeting is available but the decisions cannot be reported as this report was drafted prior to that date)

<http://councillors.knowsley.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=890&StyleType=standard&StyleSize=none>

5 February 2016 meeting of the Combined Authority

Devolution of Powers and Resources to the City Region

The Combined authority (CA) received a presentation which updated them on progress being made on the implementation of the Devolution Deal, including the allocation of portfolio leads to members of the CA and highlighting areas under consideration for a second phase of devolution.

The State of Liverpool City Region: Making the Most of Devolution

The CA received a presentation on a report that had been produced by the University of Liverpool and John Moores University on “The State of the Liverpool City Region Report: Making the Most of Devolution”.

Single Growth Strategy: Progress Update

The CA received a presentation which reported on the progress being made on the Single Growth Strategy. The issue is dealt with elsewhere on this agenda.

Transport for the North and Rail North

The CA received a presentation which updated members on developments around the Transport for the North and Rail North initiatives.

Area Based Review Process

The CA considered a report of the Portfolio Lead: Employment and Skills, which provided an update on the Area Based Review Process. The CA was informed that a post-16 Area Based Review would commence in April 2016. As part of the review, consideration would be given to the existing needs of the City Region and identify what capacity and training requirements would be needed, to ensure the sector was responsive to local employer requirements and economic priorities.

Skills Capital Investment Fund – Sites and Premises

The CA considered a report of the Portfolio Lead: Employment and Skills, which presented the Skills Capital Investment Panel’s recommended investment package for applications received under Sites and Premises (Strand 1) of the LCR Skills Capital Fund. The Panel’s recommendations were approved by the CA.

Mersey Tunnel Tolls 2016/17

The CA considered and approved the Schedule of Mersey Tunnel Tolls for the 2016/17 financial year.

2016/17 Budget – Financial Perspective

The CA agreed its budget requirements for 2016/17.

Minutes

The minutes of the following Committees of the CA were considered:

Merseytravel	3 December 2015
Audit Committee	3 November 2015

18 March 2016 – Meeting of the Combined Authority

International Festival for Business (IBF) 2016 and Beyond

The CA received a presentation on the learning from the International Festival for Business 2014 and the preparations for the IBF for 2016.

Capital Commissioning Framework and Outline Business Case for Littlewoods Studio

The CA considered a report and update of the Capital Commissioning Framework and approved an allocation of Local Growth Fund to the Littlewoods Studio proposal.

Update on the Use of ESIF Funds for Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund

The CA considered a report which provided an update on the proposed use of £12.5m of LCR ERDF funds in a £400m Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund, which would provide small and medium enterprises with access to a range of debt and equity funds to stimulate growth.

LCR Growth Deal Schemes

The CA received an update on progress in developing a shortlist of LCR Transport schemes and approved the Full Business Case for the A565 North Liverpool Key Corridors Scheme.

Single Investment Fund

The CA agreed the broad approach and principles to be used for the design and establishment of the LCR Single Investment Fund. Arrangements by which the fund would operate are to be considered by the CA in June.

Minutes

The minutes of the following Committees of the CA were received:

Merseytravel 7 January 2016
Merseytravel 4 February 2016

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no direct resource issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no direct human resource issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no direct issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no direct issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

5.1 There are no risks associated with this report or its recommendations.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific implications related to this report.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

7.1 There are no specific communications issues contained in this report.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The report has been prepared for members in order to keep them apprised of decisions of the CA.

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